

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gary M. Jacobs (Reg. No. 28,861) on November 24, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

42. (Currently Amended) A print system, in which an image supply device and a printing device directly communicate with each other via a communication interface, for transmitting image data to the printing device from the image supply device and printing the image data, the print system comprising:

a communication unit configured to establish a communication procedure between the image supply device and the printing device;

an assignment unit configured to acquire function information via said communication unit, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device as the operation controller of the print system by comparing a supporting level of an the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device; and

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a print control unit configured to transmit/receive image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the printing device based on an assignment assigned by said assignment unit, and perform a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data supplied from the image supply device,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by said assignment unit.

43. (Currently Amended) A control method of a print system, in which an image supply device and a printing device directly communicate with each other via a communication interface, for transmitting image data to the printing device from the image supply device and printing the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication procedure between the image supply device and the printing device;

acquiring function information using the communication procedure, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device for controlling a user interface;

assigning an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device ~~as the operation controller of the print system~~ by comparing the supporting level of an the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device; and

transmitting/receiving image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the printing device based on an assignment assigned in said

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assigning step, and performing a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data supplied from the image supply device,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned in said assigning step.

46. (Currently Amended) A control method according to claim 45, wherein in said acquiring step, supporting levels of ~~an~~ the operation controller of the image supply device for controlling ~~a~~ the user interface, a storage controller for controlling a storage unit that stores an image file and a print controller for controlling a print operation are acquired, and in said assigning step, the supporting levels of the image supply device and the printing device are compared, and each of the operation controller for controlling the user interface, the storage controller and the print controller is assigned to either the image supply device or the printing device based on a comparison result.

48. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein said assignment means acquires a supporting level of ~~an~~ the operation controller for controlling ~~a~~ the user interface, a storage controller for controlling a storage unit that stores an image file and a print controller for controlling a print operation, and compares the supporting levels of the image supply device and the printing device and assigns each of the operation controller for controlling ~~a~~ the user interface, the storage controller and the print controller to either the image supply device or the printing device based on a comparison result.

55. (Currently Amended) A control method of a printing device for directly communicating with an image supply device via a communication interface and for

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receiving image data from the image supply device to print the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication procedure with the image supply device;

acquiring function information using the communication procedure, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device;

assigning an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of ~~an~~ the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device; and

receiving the image data from the image supply device and printing the image data based on an assignment assigned in said assigning step,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned in said assigning step.

63. (Currently Amended) A printing system according to claim 42, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting ~~an~~ the operation controller for the user interface or a level for asserting the use of ~~an~~ the operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device.

64. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting ~~an~~ the operation controller for the user interface or a level for asserting the use of ~~an~~ the operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device.

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65. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting ~~an~~ the operation controller for the user interface or a level for asserting the use of ~~an~~ the operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device, and if said assignment unit cannot acquire a supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device, then said assignment unit assigns ~~an~~ the operation controller of the printing device as an operation controller of the image supply device.

ALLOWANCE

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 42-49, 55-57 and 63-65** are allowed. These claims will be renumbered as 1-14.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 42, 43, 47 and 55 define a printing system/method for assigning an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device received via the communication unit with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device as depicted in fig. 11 and pages 28-29 of Specification. The claims distinguish over the prior art in that the assigning unit assigns the operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by the comparison result.

Many prior art teaches the concept of exchanging their capabilities for modifying its own functions/options. For example, the most relevant prior art Breidenbach et al.

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(US Pub. 2003/0084085) teaches a method of exchanging capabilities between the printer and the digital camera (paragraphs 45-51). However, Breidenbach does not teach the applicant's claimed combination of receiving the function information of the image supply device and assigning the operation controller based on the comparison result.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571)272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHAN S PARK/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

November 28, 2008